

Message Text

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TOSEC 33

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 086942 SENT GENEVA DATED APR 29.

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TV-RADIO HIGHLIGHTS - MONDAY, APRIL 29

FOR ANDERSON FROM KING

THE SECRETARY AND GROMYKO -- GENEVA

1. MARVIN KALB -- CBS-TV FROM GENEVA -- KISSINGER WELCOMED GROMYKO IN THE HOTEL LOBBY AND AFTER POSING FOR PICTURES THE TWO DIPLOMATS RETREATED TO THE SECRETARY'S SUITE WHERE THEY RESUMED THEIR TALKS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND STRATEGIC ARMS. THEY CONFERRED LAST NIGHT FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS. ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT OF STRATEGIC ARMS IS TOUGH, NO CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH HAS YET BEEN REGISTERED. THE MIDDLE EAST IS THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM. KISSINGER IS EAGER
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TO GET A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL

BEFORE A FEARED ERUPTION OF ALL-OUT WAR RATHER THAN THE ATTRITION UNDERWAY NOW FOR A MONTH AND A HALF. THE AMERICAN DELEGATION THINKS ISRAEL IS GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST STEP, AND TROUBLE IN JERUSALEM IS ANTICIPATED. GROMYKO WANTS PART OF THE ACTION. RUSSIA IS UNHAPPY ABOUT KISSINGER'S SOLO STYLE DIPLOMACY WHICH HAS ROBBED RUSSIA OF INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN RECENT MONTHS. IT IS THE COMMON ASSUMPTION AMONG U.S. OFFICIALS THAT IF GROMYKO WANTED KISSINGER TO SUCCEED IN GETTING A DISENGAGEMENT DEAL HE WOULD, AND IF GROMYKO WANTED TO FRUSTRATE SUCCESS HE COULD. KISSINGER'S JOB HERE IS TO WIN SOVIET COOPERATION AND, IF NOT THAT, AT LEAST SOVIET ACQUIESCENCE, IN HIS CONTINUING EFFORTS. KISSINGER LEAVES FOR ALGERIA TONIGHT.

MARVIN KALB -- CBS RADIO FROM GENEVA -- "GENTLEMEN, THE HEAT IS ALMOST OFF AGAIN." THAT WAS GROMYKO'S COMMENT AS DOZENS OF CAMERAMEN WITH LIGHTS TOOK PICTURES OF HIM AND KISSINGER. THE SECRETARY TOOK THE HINT; THE CAMERAMEN WERE SHOOED OUT; AND BOTH DIPLOMATS RESUMED THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF LAST NIGHT, BASICALLY ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND STRATEGIC ARMS. THE SEARCH FOR A NEW SALT AGREEMENT, PUTTING LIMITS ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF MIRV'S, IS INTENSELY COMPLEX. A DEAL IS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO MOSCOW IN LATE JUNE. BUT THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS MORE IMMEDIATE. KISSINGER KNOWS THAT GROMYKO WANTS PART OF THE ACTION IN HIS EFFORT TO GET A DISENGAGEMENT DEAL ON THE GOLAN FRONT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. THE RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT MAY EVEN JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS THIS WEEK, A BIT OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY OF HIS OWN. KISSINGER WANTS THE RUSSIAN'S HELP BUT NOT HIS HINDERANCE. AT THE MOMENT THE SECRETARY IS NOT SURE WHAT HE IS GOING TO GET. HIS ENTOURAGE SEEMS TO FEEL THAT ISRAEL MUST MAKE THE FIRST STEP AND STIFF RESISTANCE IS EXPECTED WHEN THE SECRETARY GETS TO JERUSALEM LATER THIS WEEK.

JIM ANDERSON -- GROUP W NEWS -- RADIO FROM GENEVA -- THE MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF THIS TRIP IS DESCRIBED BY ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL AS MORE DELICATE, MORE COMPLICATED AND MORE UNCERTAIN THAN ANY OF THE PREVIOUS ONES. YET, ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL, KISSINGER WOULD NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN IT

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IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN A REALISTIC CHANCE OF SUCCESS. THERE WILL BE ONE EXTERNAL SIGN OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE -- IF IT IS A SHORT TRIP, A WEEK OR TEN DAYS, THEN THE NEGOTIATING EFFORT WOULD HAVE FAILED AND THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF A GENERAL OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IF THE TRIP STRETCHES ON FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS, THAT WILL MEAN KISSINGER HAS ARRIVED AT WHAT HE LIKES TO CALL A CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH AND HE IS DISCUSSING THE DETAILS OF

AN AGREEMENT. BEFORE HE ARRIVES AT THE ACTUAL NEGOTIATING PART OF THE TRIP BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND DAMASCUS, HE IS GOING TO TRY TO PAVE THE WAY WITH STOPS IN GENEVA TO TALK TO THE RUSSIANS AND IN ALGERIA AND IN EGYPT. THE OBJECT IS TO GET ALL OF THESE PARTIES TO USE THEIR GOOD OFFICES ON THE SYRIANS OR AT LEAST TO STAY NEUTRAL. IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT KISSINGER WILL FINISH THIS TRIP WITH A FULL SOLUTION. IT IS THE AMERICAN AIM TO STOP THE DAILY ARTILLERY DUELS BY THE PHYSICAL SEPARATION OF THE FORCES, TO BRING A UN PRESENCE INTO THE SITUATION, AND TO BRING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BACK INTO THE FRAMEWORK OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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